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FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

BELGIUM.

Report from Antwerp.

ANTWERP, *May 22, 1900.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that during the week ended May 19, 1900, bills of health were issued to 7 vessels, 6 of which carried cargo, bound from Antwerp to ports in the United States.

On the 17th instant, steamship *Nederland* sailed for Philadelphia, carrying 495 steerage passengers; there was 1 rejection because of suspected tuberculosis.

On the 19th instant, steamship *Noordland* sailed for New York, carrying 1,110 steerage and 49 cabin passengers. At the examination held previous to sailing, 10 third-class passengers were rejected. There was no evidence of the presence of quarantinable diseases among the passengers or crews of either of these vessels.

Respectfully,

E. K. SPRAGUE,

Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine Hospital Service.

BRAZIL.

Reports from Rio de Janeiro—Plague imported from Oporto.

RIO DE JANEIRO, *April 28, 1900.*

Plague at Rio de Janeiro.

SIR: On the last cases of plague observed here I beg to report as follows:

On April 4 there arrived here on the steamship *Clyde* from Oporto via Lisbon a man with his wife and child and they took up their residence at the Harmonia Place in a room already occupied by many other persons. Those new arrivals brought soiled linen and other clothing, and after their arrival it was taken from their trunk. Shortly after it, on the 8th instant, some of the tenants were taken ill, and the first death that occurred was classified by the physicians as having been caused by lymphatitis perniciosa. A few days later there occurred a similar fatal case. As then more cases of the disease occurred, among which were those of both children of the newly arrived couple (1 of whom had already been here for some time) and 1 of them being fatal, the attention of the authorities was called to the facts. The patients strongly suspected of suffering from plague were taken to the isolation hospital. All persons who had been in contact with them were put under observation, the respective and neighboring buildings were in part destroyed, in part thoroughly disinfected. The bacteriological examination verified the exact diagnosis of plague.

Therefore I sent to you on the 26th the following dispatch:

"There have been 6 cases of plague at Rio de Janeiro, fatal, 3;

imported from Oporto on April 4. The State health authorities have not decided yet officially. Do not think there will be any further spread."

The sanitary authorities adopted the standpoint that these were imported cases and that the focus of the disease has been completely extinguished by the destruction and disinfection of buildings. They decided, therefore, to adopt no other precautionary measures that might interfere with trade, so long as no other cases occur.

An examination of the rats of the neighborhood of the primitive focus has produced a negative result.

At the present writing, there are in the isolation hospital 4 bacteriologically recognized cases of plague, all proceeding from the same locality. All are doing well.

In an official communication of the director of the board of health to the minister of the interior, dated 27th, these facts are communicated, and the report ends as follows: Under such foregoing conditions I am satisfied with registering the occurrences, and I have no motive in the meantime to recommend you any measure of quarantinary hygiene.

On the 26th instant I sent you the following telegram: "Nothing special has occurred since April 19. The State health authorities consider it unnecessary quarantine."

Dr. Terni.

I beg to remark on this occasion that the name of the Italian professor, who is here for the purpose of making investigations in regard to the plague, and whom I have mentioned repeatedly in my reports, is Terni. His name was, with the exception of a few instances, printed wrong.

Epizootic epidemic in Argentina.

There has appeared among the cattle of the Argentine Republic an epizootic that was declared *febris apthosa*. I have not been able to ascertain what is the real character of the epidemic, in regard to which different reports are circulated. On the voyage from Buenos Ayres to Europe many deaths among the cattle on board have occurred, and some European states have adopted prophylactic measures in regard to the matter. Under these circumstances Brazil considers itself threatened by this disease in the neighboring country, and consequently there has now resulted a species of sanitary politics, making an international question between the directors of the respective boards of health.

Sanitary reports from Rio de Janeiro.

I have the honor to transmit to you the official sanitary reports for the weeks ended April 6 and 13.

During the week ended April 6 there were 286 deaths from all causes, an increase of 35, as compared with the preceding week; 23 deaths from *accessio pernicioso*, an increase of 7; 19 deaths from yellow fever, a decrease of 4; 4 deaths from smallpox, a decrease of 8; 2 deaths from typhoid fever, a decrease of 1; 9 deaths from beriberi, an increase of 6, and 50 deaths from tuberculosis, an increase of 12.

During the week ended April 13 there were 264 deaths from all causes, a decrease of 22, as compared with the preceding week; 13 deaths from *accessio pernicioso*, a decrease of 10; 15 deaths from yellow fever, a decrease of 4; 7 deaths from smallpox, an increase of 3; no

death from typhoid fever, a decrease of 2; 4 deaths from beriberi, a decrease of 5, and 53 deaths from tuberculosis, an increase of 3.

The general state of health at Rio de Janeiro has been, during all the summer months, and also at present, very good. The number of total deaths from all causes has been generally low. Yellow fever, that prevails always at this period of the year, has spread very little, and smallpox shows a considerable decline. There were during the last weeks 10, 23, 19, and 15 deaths from yellow fever; compared with the same period of the past year, there were 58, 39, 32, and 22 deaths. From smallpox there died 14, 12, 4, and 7 persons, and during the same weeks of last year, 7, 5, 4, and 5 persons. From *accessio pernicioso* there were 16, 16, 23, and 13 deaths; and last year, 41, 39, 27, and 16 deaths.

The state of health in the shipping is even better than ashore.

Yellow fever at Santos and Sorocaba.

At the present time yellow fever exists also at Santos and some cases at the city of Sao Paulo. The epidemic at Sorocaba has diminished very much.

I am able to furnish the following information in regard to the number of patients at the isolation hospitals at Santos and Sorocaba:

During the month of March there were at Santos 131 patients, of whom 7 were mariners; there died 64 patients, of whom 1 was a mariner. The cause of death was yellow fever, with exception of 3 instances. Twenty-six patients remained under treatment.

From January 19 to March 31 there were 902 cases of yellow fever at the isolation hospital at Sorocaba, of which 559 were males and 343 females; 616 patients were cured, 260 died, and 26 remained under treatment.

Bills of health.

Since last report the following-named ships have been inspected and received bills of health of this office: April 17, steamship *Coleridge*, British, for New York; barkentine *White Wings*, American, for Baltimore. April 20, barkentine *Amy*, American, for Baltimore; barkentine *Doris*, American, for Baltimore. April 27, steamship *Biela*, British, for New York. April 28, steamship *Grecian Prince*, British, for New York.

Respectfully,

W. HAVELBURG,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

Report from Belize—Fruit port.

BELIZE, BRITISH HONDURAS, May 25, 1900.

SIR: The accompanying report of the registrar-general shows a most gratifying health condition. I get no official reports from the colony at large, but have satisfied myself that the favorable condition prevails throughout the colony. I this day inspected the steamship *Stillwater*, Galt, which leaves this morning for New Orleans, La.; 31 in crew; 5 passengers from this place. Also the *Managua*, Gundersen, for Mobile; 4 passengers.

Respectfully,

N. K. VANCE,
Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.